

# OneBeat<sup>SM</sup>

*A music program developed by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs & Found Sound Nation—a project of Bang On A Can*

## Background:

At the direction of Assistant Secretary Ann Stock, ECA sought proposals through an open competition for OneBeat, a music exchange program that will bring two cohorts of foreign musicians from ECA-designated countries to the United States for a residency and tour program focused on creative collaboration and social engagement. This program is an innovative example of Secretary Clinton's concept of "smart power", as it seeks to open new avenues of conversation between individuals and nations through musical collaboration. Bang on a Can's Found Sound Nation is the organization selected to develop and manage OneBeat. The two-year cooperative agreement began in October 2011 and concludes in December 2013.

## Program Description:

OneBeat, a peer exchange, will invite more than 50 young professional musicians and advanced students (ages 19-35) from around the world to the U.S. to work with their American counterparts in the composition and performance of new cross-genre works, the creation of innovative recordings and videos, and the development of practices of music as civic engagement. OneBeat ventures to create an international dialogue about how to propel music forward, both from a purely artistic standpoint, and in community-based applications that encourage cross-cultural understanding, economic development, educational achievement, and conflict resolution. OneBeat is designed to foster professional networks and illustrate democratic values inherent in collaborative music-making. The program will seek innovative ways to incorporate new media to enhance the program offerings and extend the impact of the program.

The centerpiece of OneBeat will be month-long programs consisting of a U.S.-based residency and tour.

During the residencies, participants will form small collaborative ensembles that improvise across genres, reinvent traditional tunes, compose original work, record in the state-of-the-art OneBeat mobile studio, and prepare for performances and educational workshops. The groups will then tour to cities within the U.S. to perform the music they have developed during the residency, perform with local musicians, and partner with community-based organizations to conduct creative workshops with local youth. The program will culminate in a high-profile final concert, and a professionally-produced album featuring tracks recorded in the OneBeat mobile studio.

## Program Website:

[www.onebeatmusic.org](http://www.onebeatmusic.org)

A website for OneBeat is being developed that will include links to the online application, OneBeat program information and an interactive platform to connect participants with each other and U.S. and international audiences.

## Credit Language:

*One Beat*<sup>SM</sup> is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by Bang on a Can's Found Sound Nation.



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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Who are the program partners?

OneBeat is a program developed by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and will be administered by the Found Sound Nation program of the renowned contemporary music organization Bang on a Can.

[Bang on a Can](#), formed in 1987 by composers Michael Gordon, David Lang and Julia Wolfe, is dedicated to commissioning, performing, creating, presenting and recording contemporary music. With an ear for the new, the unknown and the unconventional, Bang on a Can strives to expose exciting and innovative music as broadly and accessibly as possible to new audiences worldwide. And through its Summer Festival, Bang on a Can hopes to bring this energy and passion for innovation to a younger generation of composers and players.

[Found Sound Nation](#) is an eclectic group of artists who make music from the sounds of the places and communities that surround them. Working with people across the globe, from schools to prisons, from young to old, and partnering with local youth, social organizations, music festivals, and artists across all disciplines, FSN strives to create musical spaces that transcend geographic, linguistic, and political borders. The work of FSN uses the expressive power of music and audio production to give voice to underrepresented communities, unlock the creative potential of youth, and build bridges between communities separated by cultures, economic disparities, and geography.

### What are the goals for OneBeat?

OneBeat will bring musicians from around the world to collaborate in the creation and performance of new music, share and develop ways to use music to positively affect their communities, encourage cross-cultural understanding, and foster ways that diverse people can creatively and collaboratively address universal issues. This program will serve as an incubator for new ideas in music and illustrate ways that music can be used for positive social engagement.

Specifically, OneBeat will:

- energize the work of international musicians in their own countries;
- provide unique opportunities for musical collaboration, engagement, and performance among the international participants and with their American peers and American music professionals;
- provide participants with instructive and informative experiences in their art form;
- provide exposure to the creation and performance of world-class American music;
- create opportunities for sustaining relationships with U.S. arts professionals; and
- provide opportunities for educational outreach to American audiences and students.



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## **How will OneBeat participants be identified?**

Musicians from ECA-designated countries will apply online. Found Sound Nation will conduct an online application process via the OneBeat website—[www.onebeatmusic.org](http://www.onebeatmusic.org)—where applicants will describe their musical journeys and why they are interested in being OneBeat Fellows. Applications will also include work samples (which can be in the form of audio, video, and/or written scores). Applicants are encouraged to include two to three letters of reference.

## **When can musicians apply? When is the application deadline?**

There will be two application periods—the first to recruit for the September 2012 residency and the second to recruit for the September 2013 residency.

### Application Period for the September 2012 program--

January 2, 2012-Feb 16, 2012

### Application Period for the September 2013 program—

January 2, 2013-February 16, 2013

## **When will OneBeat Fellows be notified?**

Selected fellows will be notified by April 1, and will have 2 weeks to confirm their participation in the program.

## **What are the eligible countries?**

**AF:** South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Mali, Mozambique

**EAP:** China, Cambodia, Burma, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, South Korea, Hong Kong

**EUR:** Denmark, Russia, Poland, Hungary, Norway, Czech Republic

**NEA:** Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Israel

**SCA:** India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh

**WHA:** Venezuela, Bolivia, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Jamaica

## **Who is eligible to apply?**

OneBeat is open to musicians ages 19-35, who demonstrate both an advanced proficiency in their musical work, an interest in cross-genre collaboration, and an experience with or interest in developing ways to use music as a way to improve their communities.

Musicians from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply, with or without formal musical training, from all genres, including but not limited to: hip-hop, traditional, experimental, electronic, jazz, classical, sound design, beatmaking, multimedia art, DJ-ing, audio engineering, or any combination of these styles. We are especially looking for musicians that have a strong commitment to their communities, are seeking new ways to engage youth, arts-in-education, music therapy, conflict resolution, and other ways of working towards more egalitarian and democratic societies.



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### **Will artists be chosen from every country?**

Because of the number of countries (38), we cannot accept fellows from every country. We do hope to invite fellows from all six regions.

### **How many artists will be selected? What expenses will be covered for the participant?**

27-28 foreign participants will be selected each year. All costs will be covered for the fellows, including travel, food, and accommodations. Fellows will also receive a per diem and modest honorarium.

### **Can the Embassy make nominations? Will the Application be publicized overseas?**

Applications for OneBeat will not have to be nominated, as musicians apply individually. Embassies can provide encouragement, technical support, and reference letters, to musicians whom they feel would be excellent OneBeat fellows. Embassies may also apply on behalf of candidates who they feel are particularly qualified. Embassy recommendations will be highly regarded and assist ECA in making final decisions.

Yes. ECA encourages Posts to circulate information about the OneBeat application to appropriate cultural outlets and/or contacts. It is hoped that Post will aid in spreading the word about the OneBeat application.

### **Can artists nominate themselves?**

Yes, artists can apply without being nominated by anyone else.

### **What is the selection process for OneBeat?**

All applications will be reviewed against a set of established criteria by the OneBeat Selection Committee, made up of OneBeat staff, Department of State staff, and accomplished musicians who may also play the roles of Facilitators and Master Artists during the OneBeat program itself. The selection committee will identify fellows and alternates for recommendation to ECA. ECA will make final participant selection.

### **What are the artist selection criteria?**

1. *Musical Excellence* – A high level of performance, composition, improvisational, production and/or technological skill. Ideally OneBeat musicians will be innovating either stylistically, lyrically, or technologically within their musical worlds.
2. *Collaboration* — Applicants' willingness to cross cultural and genre divides in creating original music, or re-interpreting traditional music, while trying to maintain the essence of each tradition.
3. *Social Engagement* -- Musicians who have used music to serve their communities or greater societies. This might consist of starting a music school, promoting peace and democracy through musical content, reviving dying musical traditions, and more. In addition, participants should be eager to tour to smaller- and mid-sized cities of the U.S. to engage with citizens including other artists through performances, workshops, discussions, and social activities.
4. *Age* – Applicants must be 19-35.



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5. *English Proficiency* – Applicants should be able to converse in basic English, as it will be the common language of all OneBeat fellows.
6. *Country of Origin* – OneBeat fellows must live full-time in one of the 38 eligible countries, and have not traveled to the U.S. or have rarely performed in the U.S.
7. *Internet Proficiency* – Ideally participants should actively use email and be able to connect to the internet to participate in OneBeat website-based activities.

### **How long will Fellows stay in the US? What will they do while in the U.S?**

The program will be 26-28 days in length. While in the U.S. the fellows will form small collaborative ensembles that improvise across genres, reinvent traditional tunes, compose original work, record in the state-of-the-art OneBeat mobile studio, and prepare for performances and educational workshops. Afterwards they will go on a 10-14 day tour, when they will perform the music they developed and rehearsed during the residency period. Throughout the tour fellows will also develop and lead Social Engagement activities--creative educational workshops--for youth and community groups along the tour route. These post-residency activities will be documented via video and shared online. A recorded track from each session, and a written curriculum will be available so that educators around the world can replicate and expand on these workshops. The program will culminate in a high-profile final concert, and a professionally-produced album featuring tracks recorded in the OneBeat mobile studio.

### **Will there be follow – on activities?**

Yes. We will encourage OneBeat fellows to be part of a vibrant and growing OneBeat online community, through which fellows will continue to be able to collaborate on new work. The grantee hopes to raise additional funds to provide selected fellows small grants to launch OneBeat inspired social-engaged music programs in their home countries.



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